REMARKS

Applicants submit that the amendment to the claims does not introduce new matter and are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that the present claims meet all the requirements for patentability. The Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all the present claims. If the Examiner is of a contrary view, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (215) 557-3861.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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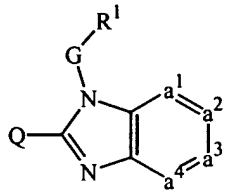
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

1. (amended) [Use of a compound for the manufacture] A method of manufacturing a medicament for the treatment of viral infections, [wherein the compound is] comprising the step of providing a compound of formula


(I)

a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof,

wherein-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4- represents a bivalent radical of formula

-CH=CH-CH=CH- (a-1);

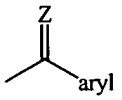
-N=CH-CH=CH- (a-2);

-CH=N-CH=CH- (a-3);

-CH=CH-N=CH- (a-4); or

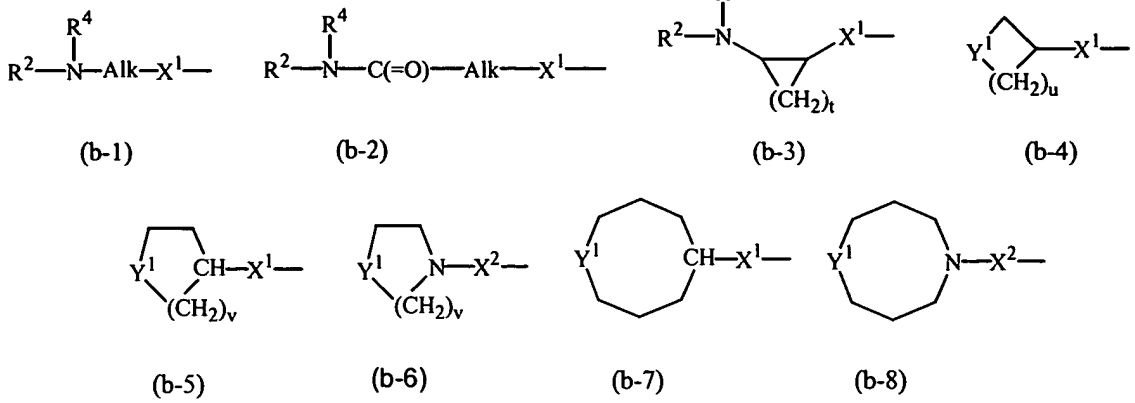
-CH=CH-CH=N- (a-5);

wherein each hydrogen atom in the radicals (a-1), (a-2), (a-3), (a-4) and (a-5) may optionally be replaced by halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, nitro, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, carboxyl, aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, mono- or di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, or a radical of formula



wherein =Z is =O, =CH-C(=O)-$NR^{5a}R^{5b}$, =CH_2, =CH-C_{1-6}alkyl, =N-OH or =N-O-C_{1-6}alkyl;

Q is a radical of formula



(b-1) (b-2) (b-3) (b-4)

(b-5) (b-6) (b-7) (b-8)

wherein Alk is C_{1-6}alkanediyl;

Y^1 is a bivalent radical of formula $-NR^2-$ or $-CH(NR^2R^4)-$;

X^1 is NR^4, S, S(=O), $S(=O)_2$, O, CH_2, C(=O), $C(=CH_2)$, CH(OH), $CH(CH_3)$, $CH(OCH_3)$, $CH(SCH_3)$, $CH(NR^{5a}R^{5b})$, CH_2-NR^4 or NR^4-CH_2;

X^2 is a direct bond, CH_2, C(=O), NR^4, C_{1-4}alkyl-NR^4, NR^4-C_{1-4}alkyl;

t is 2, 3, 4 or 5;

u is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

v is 2 or 3; and

whereby each hydrogen atom in Alk and the carbocycles and the heterocycles defined in radicals (b-3), (b-4), (b-5), (b-6), (b-7) and (b-8) may optionally be replaced by R^3; with the proviso that when R^3 is hydroxy or C_{1-6}alkyloxy, then R^3 can not replace a hydrogen atom in the α position relative to a nitrogen atom;

G is a direct bond or C_{1-10}alkanediyl;

R^1 is a monocyclic heterocycle selected from piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolyl, furanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and isothiazolyl; and each heterocycle may optionally be substituted with 1 or where possible more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, C_{1-6}alkyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, aryl, arylC_{1-6}alkyl, arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonylamino, C_{1-6}alkyl-SO_2-NR^{5c}-, aryl-SO_2-NR^{5c}-,

C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl, -C(=O)-$NR^{5c}R^{5d}$, HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, halo(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, C_{1-6}alkyloxy(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$- and mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-;

each n independently is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^2 is hydrogen, formyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl, Hetcarbonyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl substituted with $N(R^6)_2$, or C_{1-10}alkyl substituted with $N(R^6)_2$ and optionally with a second, third or fourth substituent selected from amino, hydroxy, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{2-5}alkanediyl, piperidinyl, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonylamino, aryl and aryloxy;

R^3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, arylC_{1-6}alkyl or arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy;

R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or arylC_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^{5c} and R^{5d} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; or

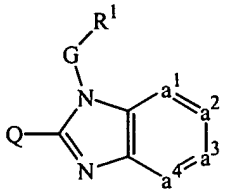
R^{5a} and R^{5b}, or R^{5c} and R^{5d} taken together form a bivalent radical of formula -$(CH_2)_s$- wherein s is 4 or 5;

R^6 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, formyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl or C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl;

aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 or more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{1-6}alkyloxy;

Het is pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl.

2. A compound of formula (I')



(I')

a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof, wherein -a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4- represents a radical of formula

-CH=CH-CH=CH- (a-1);

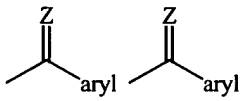
-N=CH-CH=CH- (a-2);

-CH=N-CH=CH- (a-3);

-CH=CH-N=CH- (a-4); or

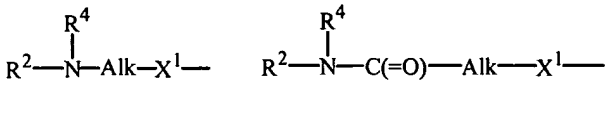
-CH=CH-CH=N- (a-5);

wherein each hydrogen atom in the radicals (a-1), (a-2), (a-3), (a-4) and (a-5) may optionally be replaced by halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, nitro, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, carboxyl, aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, mono- or di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, or a radical of formula

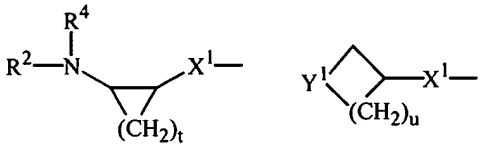


wherein =Z is =O, =CH-C(=O)-$NR^{5a}R^{5b}$, =CH_2, =CH-C_{1-6}alkyl, =N-OH or =N-O-C_{1-6}alkyl;

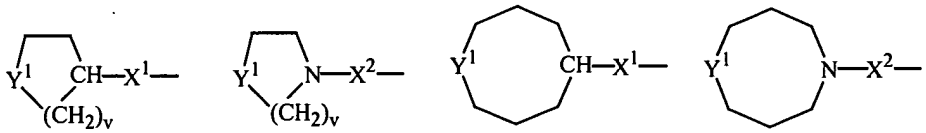
Q is a radical of formula



(b-1) (b-2)



(b-3) (b-4)



(b-5) (b-6) (b-7) (b-8)

wherein Alk is C_{1-6}alkanediyl;

Y^1 is a bivalent radical of formula $-NR^2-$ or $-CH(NR^2R^4)-$;

X^1 is NR^4, S, S(=O), $S(=O)_2$, O, CH_2, C(=O), C(=CH_2), CH(OH), $CH(CH_3)$, $CH(OCH_3)$, $CH(SCH_3)$, $CH(NR^{5a}R^{5b})$, CH_2-NR^4 or NR^4-CH_2;

X^2 is a direct bond, CH_2, C(=O), NR^4, C_{1-4}alkyl-NR^4, NR^4-C_{1-4}alkyl;

t is 2, 3, 4 or 5;

u is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

v is 2 or 3; and

whereby each hydrogen atom in Alk and the carbocycles and the heterocycles defined in radicals (b-3), (b-4), (b-5), (b-6), (b-7) and (b-8) may optionally be replaced

by R^3; with the proviso that when R^3 is hydroxy or C_{1-6}alkyloxy, then R^3 can not replace a hydrogen atom in the α position relative to a nitrogen atom;

G is a direct bond or C_{1-10}alkanediyl;

R^1 is a monocyclic heterocycle selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl and pyrazolyl; and each heterocycle may optionally be substituted with 1 or where possible more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, C_{1-6}alkyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, aryl, arylC_{1-6}alkyl, arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl-carbonylamino, C_{1-6}alkyl-SO_2-NR^{5c}-, aryl-SO_2-NR^{5c}-, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl, -C(=O)-$NR^{5c}R^{5d}$, HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, halo(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, C_{1-6}alkyloxy(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$- and mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-;

each n independently is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^2 is hydrogen, formyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl substituted with $N(R^6)_2$, or C_{1-10}alkyl substituted with $N(R^6)_2$ and optionally with a second, third or fourth substituent selected from amino, hydroxy, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{2-5}alkanediyl, piperidinyl, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonylamino, aryl and aryloxy;

R^3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, arylC_{1-6}alkyl or arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy;

R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or arylC_{1-6}alkyl;

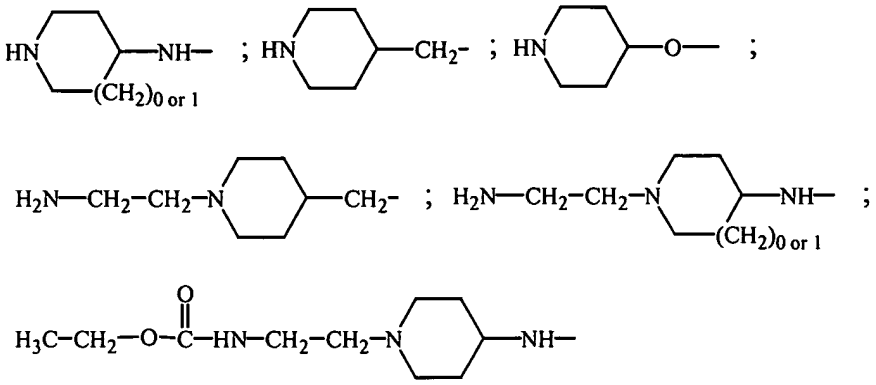
R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^{5c} and R^{5d} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; or

R^{5a} and R^{5b}, or R^{5c} and R^{5d} taken together form a bivalent radical of formula -$(CH_2)_s$- wherein s is 4 or 5;

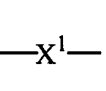
R^6 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, formyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl or C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl;

aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 or more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{1-6}alkyloxy;

provided that when G is methylene, and R^1 is 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 6-methyl-2-pyridyl, 2-pyrazinyl or 5-methyl-imidazol-4-yl, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ is $-CH=CH-CH=CH-$ or $-N=CH-CH=CH-$, then Q is other than



3. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein [the following restrictions apply]:

when Q is 

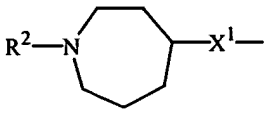
wherein X^1 is NR^4, O, S, S(=O), $S(=O)_2$, CH_2, C(=O), $C(=CH_2)$ or $CH(CH_3)$, then R^1 is other than pyridyl, pyridyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, imidazolyl and imidazolyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl.

4. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein [the following restrictions apply]:

when Q is 

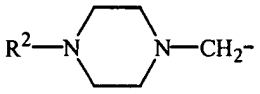
wherein X^1 is NR^4, O, S, S(=O), $S(=O)_2$, CH_2, C(=O), $C(=CH_2)$ or $CH(CH_3)$, then R^1 is other than pyridyl, pyridyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl, pyridyl substituted with 1 or 2 C_{1-6}alkyloxy, pyrazinyl, pyrrolyl, pyrrolyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl, imidazolyl and imidazolyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl.

5. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein [the following restrictions apply]:

when Q is 

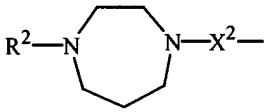
wherein X^1 is NR^4, O, S, S(=O), $S(=O)_2$, CH_2, C(=O), $C(=CH_2)$ or $CH(CH_3)$, then R^1 is other than pyridyl, pyridyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, imidazolyl and imidazolyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl.

6. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein [the following restrictions apply]:

when Q is 

then R^1 is other than pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, imidazolyl and imidazolyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl.

7. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein [the following restrictions apply]:

when Q is 

wherein X^2 is CH_2 or a direct bond, then R^1 is other than pyridyl, pyridyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, imidazolyl and imidazolyl substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl.

8. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein the compound is [selected from]:

(±)-2-[[2-[[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-7-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol tetrahydrochloride monohydrate; 2-[[2-[[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl-3-pyridinol; (±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-6-chloro-1-[(1,4-dimethyl-*1H*-imidazol-5-yl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate; (±)-*N*-[1-(2-

amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-6-chloro-1-[(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; (±)-2-[[2-[(3-amino-2-hydroxypropyl)amino]-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[[3-(2-ethoxyethoxy)-6-methyl-2-pyridinyl]methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine tetrahydrochloride dihydrate; (±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-chloro-1,4-dimethyl-*1H*-imidazol-5-yl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; (±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-6-chloro-1-[(2-chloro-1,4-dimethyl-*1H*-imidazol-5-yl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; (±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-6-methyl-1-[(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; (±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminopropyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(3,5,6-trimethylpyrazinyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine tetrahydrochloride trihydrate; (±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(3,5,6-trimethylpyrazinyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[[3-(2-chloroethoxy)-6-methyl-2-pyridinyl]methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride dihydrate; (±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[3-amino-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine tetrahydrochloride trihydrate; 2-[[2-[[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol tetrahydrochloride; (±)-2-[[2-[[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-7-methyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-3-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol; 2-[[2-[[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-6-chloro-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol tetrahydrochloride 2-propanolate (1:1); (±)-2-[[2-[[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol; (±)-2-[[2-[[1-(2-aminopropyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol tetrahydrochloride trihydrate; 2-[[2-[[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-7-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol tetrahydrochloride dihydrate; 2-[[2-[[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-6-bromo-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol tetrahydrochloride; 2-[[2-[[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol tetrahydrochloride monohydrate; (±)-2-[[2-[[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-

yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol; (±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-[(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex [and] or stereochemically isomeric form thereof.

9. (amended) A compound [selected from] as claimed in claim 2, wherein the compound is:

2-[[2-[[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino]-5-chloro-7-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-6-methyl-3-pyridinol tetrahydrochloride tetrahydrate; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2,4-dimethyl-5-oxazolyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2,5-dimethyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride monohydrate; 4-[[3-[[5-(methoxymethyl)-2-furanyl]methyl]-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine-2-yl]methyl]-1-piperidineetanamine; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(5-methyl-3-isoxazolyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride monohydrate; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-methyl-5-oxazolyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-methyl-5-oxazolyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride monohydrate; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-3-[(2,4-dimethyl-5-oxazolyl)methyl]-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-2-amine; 4-[[3-[(2-methyl-5-oxazolyl)methyl]-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-2-yl]methyl]-1-piperazineethanamine; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(4-thiazolylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(5-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride; 5-[[2-[[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl-2-oxazolemethanol tetrahydrochloride dihydrate; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(3-methyl-5-isoxazolyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride monohydrate; 4-[[1-[[2-(dimethylamino)-4-thiazolyl]methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-yl]methyl]-1-piperidineethanamine tetrahydrochloride monohydrate 2-propanolate (1:1); ethyl 5-[[2-[[1-[2-[[(1,1-dimethylethoxy)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]-4-piperidinyl]amino]-*1H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]methyl]-2-methyl-4-oxazolecarboxylate; 4-[[1-[(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)methyl]-*1H*-

benzimidazol-2-yl]methyl]-1-piperidineethanamine; N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-methyl-3-furanyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; ethyl 4-[[3-[(3-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-7-methyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine-2-yl]amino]-1-piperidinecarboxylate; 1,1-dimethylethyl 4-[[1-[[3-[2-(dimethylamino)ethoxy]-6-methyl-2-pyridinyl]methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-yl]amino-1-piperidinecarboxylate; ethyl 4-[[1-[(3-amino-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-yl]amino]-1-piperidinecarboxylate; N-[1-(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-yl]-1-(3-pyridinylcarbonyl)-4-piperidinamine;

a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex [and] or stereochemically isomeric form thereof.

10.(amended)A [compound as claimed in anyone of claims 2 to 9 for use as a medicine] method of using as a medicine a compound as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 9.

11. (amended) [Use of a compound as claimed in claim 9 for the manufacture of] A method of manufacturing a medicament for the treatment of viral infections, comprising the step of providing the compound as claimed in claim 9.

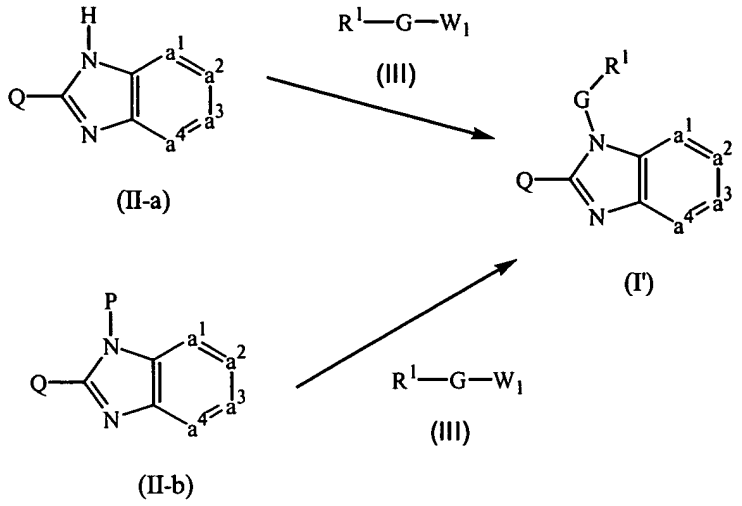
12. (amended) [Use of a compound according to claim 1 or claim 11] The method of claim 1 or 11, wherein said viral infection is a respiratory syncytial virus infection.

13. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in [claims 2 or claim 9] any one of claims 2 to 9.

14. (amended) A process of preparing a composition as claimed in claim 13 [characterized in that a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is intimately mixed with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 2 or claim 9] , comprising the step of intimately mixing said carrier with said compound.

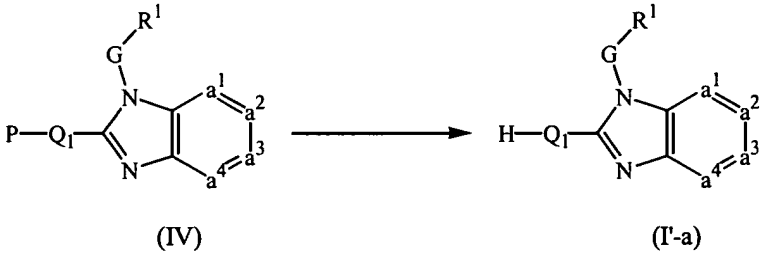
15. (amended) A process of preparing a compound as claimed in claim 2, [characterized by] comprising at least one step selected from the group consisting of:

(a) reacting an intermediate of formula (II-a) or (II-b) with an intermediate of formula (III)



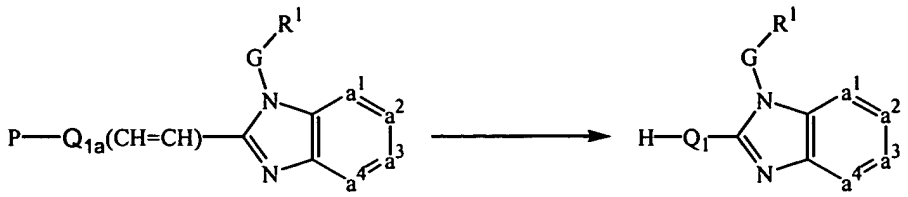
with R^1, G, Q and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and W_1 being a suitable leaving group, in the presence of a suitable base and in a suitable reaction-inert solvent;

(b) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (IV)



with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, H-Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

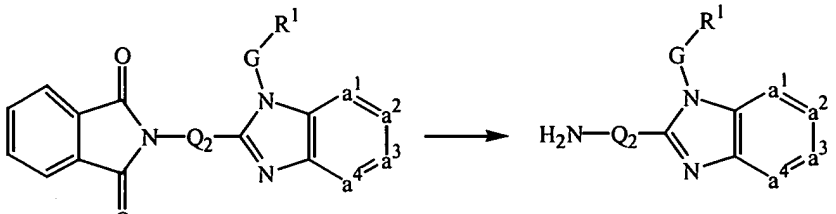
(c) deprotecting and reducing an intermediate of formula (IV-a)



(IV-a) (I'-a)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, $H-Q_1$ being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, $Q_{1a}(CH=CH)$ being defined as Q_1 provided that Q_1 comprises an unsaturated bond, and P being a protective group;

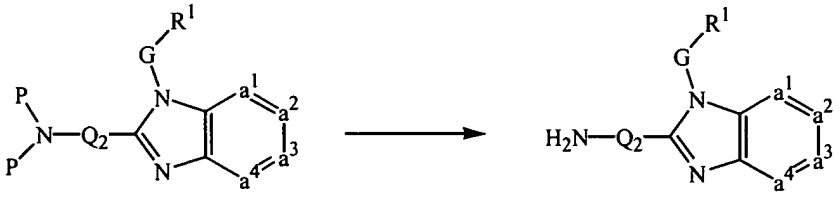
(d) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (V)



(V) (I'-a-1)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and H_2N-Q_2 being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen;

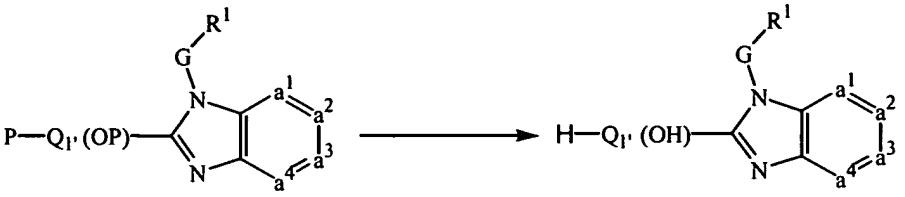
(e) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VI)



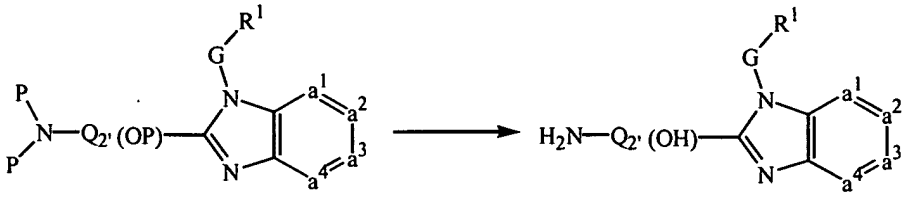
(VI) (I'-a-1)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and H_2N-Q_2 being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

(f) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VII) or (VIII)



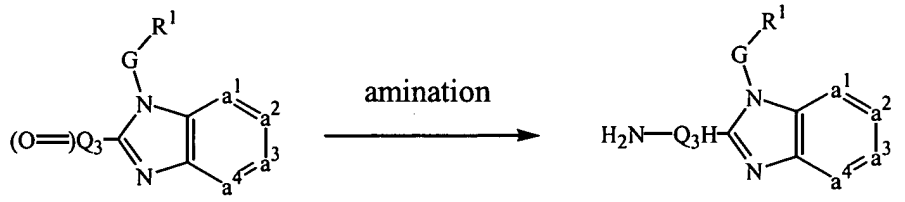
(VII) (I'-a-2)



(VIII) (I'-a-1-1)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, H-Q_1'(OH) being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, H_2N-Q_2'(OH) being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, and P being a protective group;

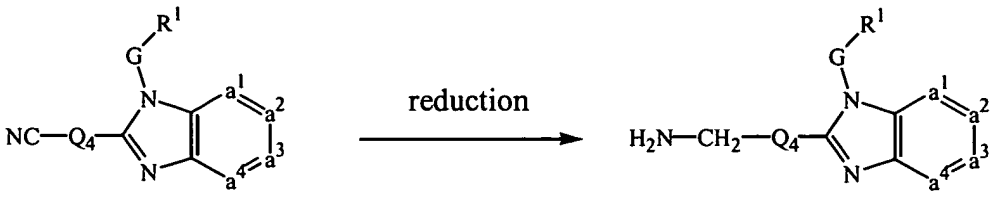
(g) amination of an intermediate of formula (IX)



(IX) (I'-a-1-2)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and H_2N-Q_3H being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen, and the carbon adjacent to the nitrogen carrying the R^6, or R^2 and R^4 substituents contains at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

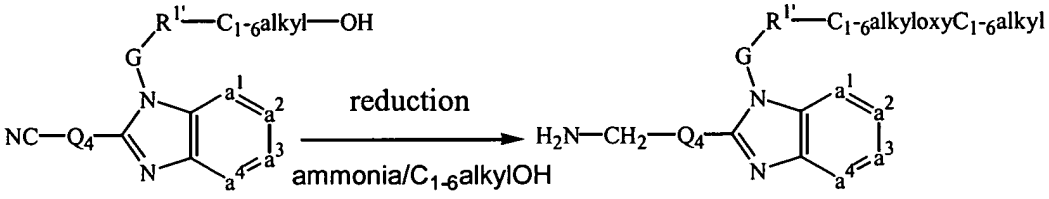
(h) reducing an intermediate of formula (X)



(X) (I'-a-1-3)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and $H_2N-CH_2-Q_4$ being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that Q comprises a $-CH_2-NH_2$ moiety, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

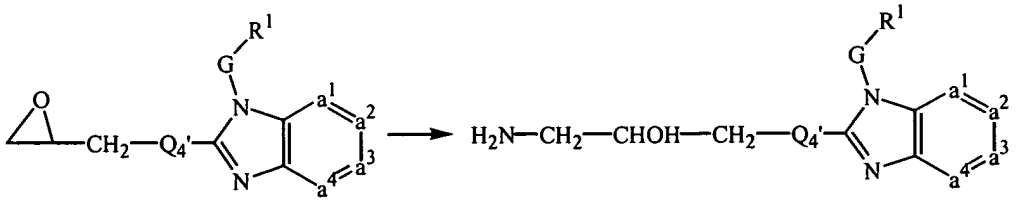
(i) reducing an intermediate of formula (X-a)



(X-a) (I'-a-1-3-1)

with G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, $H_2N-CH_2-Q_4$ being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that Q comprises a $-CH_2-NH_2$ moiety, and $R^{1'}$ being defined as R^1 according to claim 2 provided that it comprises at least one substituent, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent and suitable solvent;

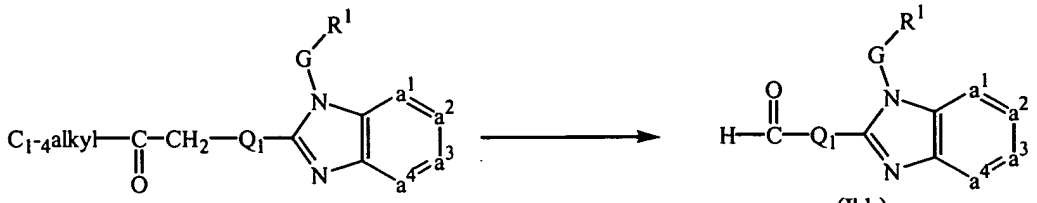
(j) amination of an intermediate of formula (XI)



(XI) (I'-a-1-3-2)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and $H_2N-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-Q_4$, being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that Q comprises a $CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-NH_2$ moiety, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

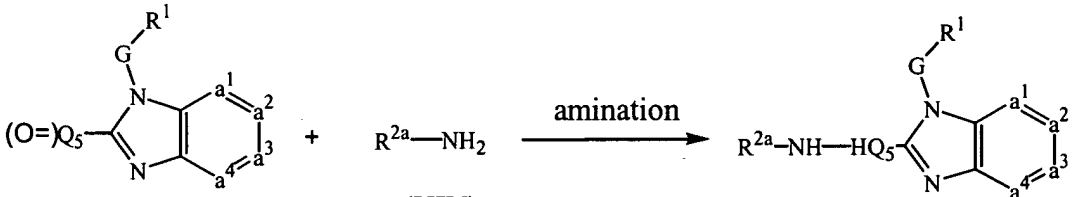
(k) reacting an intermediate of formula (XII) with formic acid, formamide and ammonia



(XII) (I'-b)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and H-C(=O)-Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is formyl;

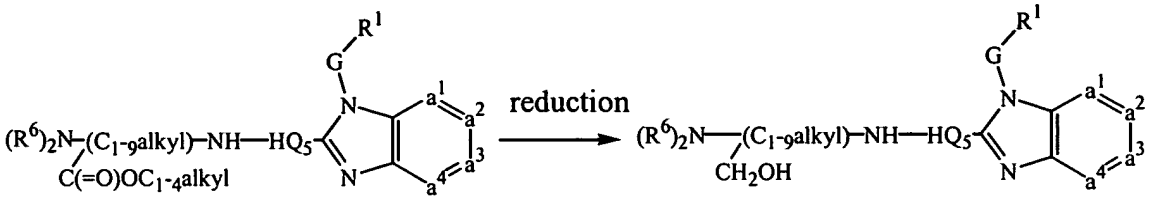
(l) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIII) by reaction with an intermediate of formula (XIV)



(XIII) (XIV) (I'-c)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and R^{2a}-NH-HQ_5 being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that R^2 is other than hydrogen and is represented by R^{2a}, R^4 is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the R^2 and R^4 substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

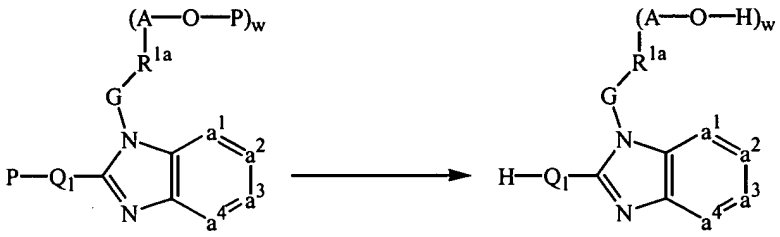
(m)reducing an intermediate of formula (XV)



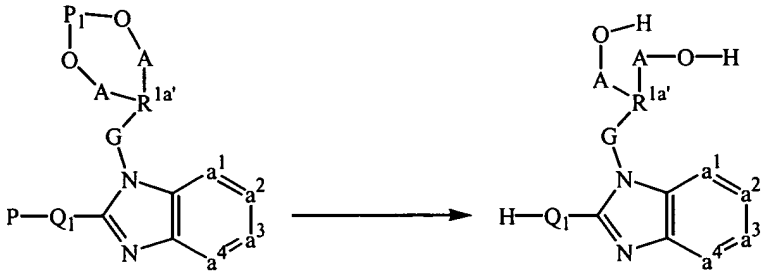
(XV) (I'-c-1)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and $(R^6)_2N$-[$(C_{1-9}$alkyl$)CH_2OH$]-NH-HQ_5 being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that R^2 is other than hydrogen and is represented by C_{1-10}alkyl substituted with $N(R_6)_2$ and with hydroxy, and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy, carries also two hydrogen atoms, and provided that R^4 is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the R^2 and R^4 substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, with a suitable reducing agent;

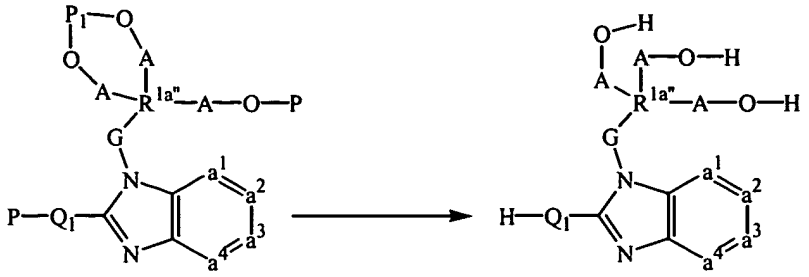
(n) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XVI), (XVI-a) or (XVI-b)



(XVI) (I'-d)



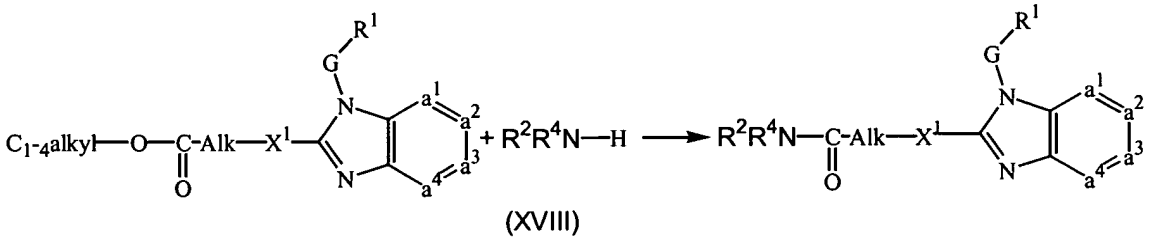
(XVI-a) (I'-d-1)



(XVI-b) (I'-d-2)

with G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and H-Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, and R^{1a}-(A-O-H)$_w$, $R^{1a'}$-(A-O-H)$_2$ and $R^{1a''}$-(A-O-H)$_3$ being defined as R^1 according to claim 2 provided that R^1 is substituted with hydroxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, or HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, with w being an integer from 1 to 4 and P or P_1 being a suitable protecting group, with a suitable acid;[.]

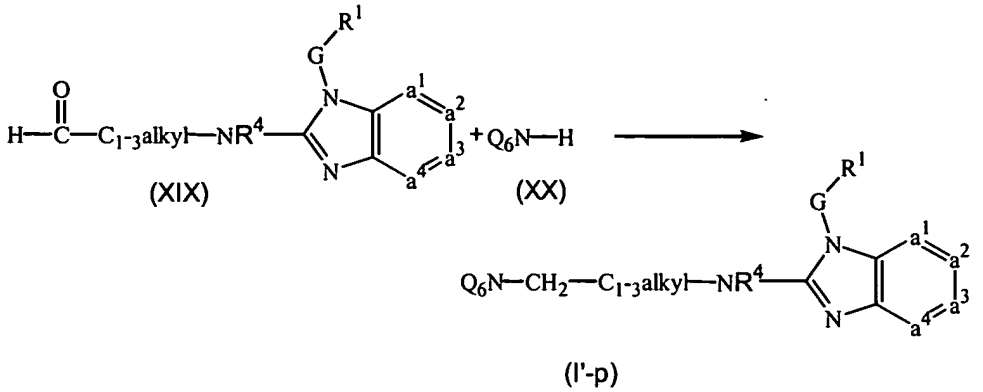
(o) amination of an intermediate of formula (XVII)



(XVII) (XVIII) (I'-e)

with R^1, G, $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$, Alk, X^1 R^2 and R^4 defined as in claim 2, in the presence of a suitable amination agent; and

(p) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIX)



(I'-p)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 2, and $Q_6N\text{-}CH_2\text{-}C_{1\text{-}3}alkyl\text{-}NR^4$ being defined as Q according to claim 2 provided that in the definition of Q, X^2 is $C_{2\text{-}4}alkyl\text{-}NR^4$, in the presence of a suitable amination agent.

[and, if desired, converting compounds of formula (I') into each other following art-known transformations, and further, if desired, converting the compounds of formula (I'), into a therapeutically active non-toxic acid addition salt by treatment with an acid, or into a therapeutically active non-toxic base addition salt by treatment with a base, or conversely, converting the acid addition salt form into the free base by treatment with alkali, or converting the base addition salt into the free acid by treatment with acid; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or N-oxide forms thereof.]

16. (amended) A product [containing], comprising:

(a) a first compound as [defined] claimed in [claim] any one of claims 2 [or] to 9; and

(b) a second [another] antiviral compound, [as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment or the prevention of viral infections]

wherein said first compound and said second compound are simultaneously, separately or sequentially used in the treatment or the prevention of viral infections.

17. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

(a) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; and

(b) as active ingredients:

i. a first compound [as defined in claim 2 or 9,] as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 9; and

ii. [another] a second antiviral compound.

Please add the following new claims:

18. (new) The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic acid addition salt by treatment with an acid.

19. (new) The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic base addition salt by treatment with alkali.

20. (new) The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of converting the acid addition salt form of compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into the free base by treatment with alkali.

21. (new) The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of converting the base addition salt form of compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into the free acid by treatment with acid.